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California & the West

Posted on Thu, Apr. 01, 2004

Regional planning agency approves 25-year transportation plan

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - A regional agency on Thursday approved a \$213 billion transportation plan designed to curb gridlock on freeways and improve airports and train stations that serve more than 17

The Southern California Association of Governments approved the plan called "Destination 2030," which is designed to help the region accommodate rapid growth

million people in six counties.

while trying to make the most of limited funding.

"If we don't start making serious investments in our infrastructure now, the Southern leave to our children will suffer," said Temecula Councilman and SCAG First Vice Presi-Roberts.

The report will be forwarded to several federal agencies, including the Federal Transit and the Federal Highway Administration, for approval. It would then be certified and r SCAG every three years, said the board's Executive Director Mark Pisano.

The plan provides a blueprint for the region's transportation needs over the next 25 ye

Projects in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura cou included in the report to be eligible for state and federal funding.

Some of the investments and recommendations listed in the report are:

Connecting car pool lanes to fill gaps in its network.

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_ Increasing the capacity of Metrolink, a regional rail system.

_ Investing in a \$29 billion high-speed rail system that uses magnetic levitation techn would connect Southern California's largest cities.

Planning officials admit that improving transportation while California is mired in a fisc be difficult.

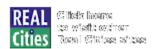
But the report suggests the funding shortfall could be alleviated by extending some cc taxes that are expected to be phased out; adjusting the state gasoline tax after 2010; Los Angeles County half-cent sales tax that would be used for its Metropolitan Transpo Authority.

Pisano noted that many transportation proposals, such as car pool lanes and Metrolini fruition as a result of the previous 25-year plan.

"The unfortunate thing is it takes a long time to develop these projects, but they are r said.

Southern California Association of Governments: http://www.scag.ca.gov/





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